

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3005

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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USUN NEW YORK 0926

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SG, XF

SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: DAKAR 6683

1. SUMMARY. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR AND TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION PRESIDENT SENGHOR DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST WHERE HE HAS JUST BEEN TRAVELLING FOR ALMOST A MONTH. SENGHOR WAS IMPRESSED BY ARABS' WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL AND SAW NEED FOR FURTHER ISRAELI CONCESSIONS. SENGHOR SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH US MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST AND LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASST SECTY MULCAHY IN KINSHASA. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH IN MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR ON NOV 21 AND IN TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION MEETING WITH HIM ON NOV 22, MIDDLE EAST WAS ONE OF MAIN TOPICS OF CONVERSATION. SENGHOR HAS RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONVINCED THAT ARAB POSITION IS MOVING TOWARDS MORE REALISM AND A POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN GENEVA BUT THAT ISRAEL NEEDS TO MAKE MORE CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF EGYPT AND MORE MODERATE ARAB STATES. HE SAID THAT NOWHERE IN
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VISIT DID HE PERCEIVE GENUINE DESIRE TO DENY ISRAEL RIGHT

TO EXIST OR TO EXPEL IT FROM WORLD COUNCILS. ALL LEADERS HE TALKED WITH INCLUDING SYRIANS AND IRAQUIS WISHED NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWED BY EVACUATION OF ISRAELIS FROM ARAB LANDS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE TO CO-EXIST WITH ISRAEL. HE SAID PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE WHETHER ISRAEL RECOGNIZED PLO FIRST OR VICE VERSA. SENGHOR WONDERED WHETHER POL'S WILLINGNESS TO SIT DOWN WITH ISRAEL AT GENEVA COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED RECOGNITION OF STATE OF ISRAEL AND VICE VERSA.

3. SENGHOR SAID HE APPRECIATED AND SUPPORTED US EFFORTS TO FIND SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH OUR POSITION. MAIN PROBLEM NOW, IN HIS VIEW WAS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. HIS OWN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE IN THE PAST HAD RUN INTO STONEWALL LAST AUGUST IN SWITZERLAND WHEN HE MET PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S ENVOY, BEN NATHAN. (SEE DAKAR 6683).

4. SENGHOR SAID HE WISHED TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH US ON MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER QUESTIONS. IF DEPT WISHED TO SEND MIDDLE EAST SPECIALIST SUCH AS DEPUTY ASST SECY SAUNDERS TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST OR OTHER ISSUES WITH HIM HE WOULD WELCOME CONTACT. HE ALSO WELCOMED MEETING WITH MULCAHY IN KINSHASA. SENEGAL WANTED MORE NOT LESS DIALOGUE. US WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THIRD WORLD NATIONS IF INTERLOCUTORS WERE MORE SKILLED IN PUTTING THEMSELVES IN POSITIONS OF OTHERS. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IN DISCUSSIONS OF ZIONISM WAS ANTI-ARAB RACIST ATTITUDES THAT AFRICANS OFTEN DISCOVERED IN DEBATING ISSUES WITH SOME WESTERN INTELLECTUALS. THIS WAS MORE TRUE OF EUROPEANS LIKE MALRAUX AND MITTERAND THAN OF THE AMERICANS.
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